

# Renovating on a shoestring

By Sue Mikkelsen

PEOPLE who think design ideas for their house or unit are out of their budget may be surprised to find out how accessible it can be, according to the director of a new interior design consultancy in Noosa.

After establishing an interior design company for shoestring budgets in New Zealand, Jane Eyles-Bennett has brought her Hotspace consultancy practice to Noosa. She said investors, holiday unit owners and home owners could gain from simple design principles that cost less than many people would expect.

Jane, who opened her business at an office at Noosa Boardroom, Noosa Civic, in June, continues to operate her New Zealand design consultancy over the internet. She also writes for a property investment magazine.

Jane has been doing interior design for 15 years, after starting out buying investment properties in New Zealand and renovating them. She then started helping friends and the business grew from there.

"I just love doing it," she said. "You can make a place look really good but you don't have to spend a lot of money on it." She said many people believed interior designers were expensive and would have expensive ideas.

"I just believe in making design accessible to everyone - not just those who normally can afford it," she said. "People can afford de-



Jane Eyles-Bennett from Hotspace.

signer renovations on a shoestring and the changes you make can have a great impact on the property. If you're selling, it also has an impact on the price.

"It's interior design that's low on cost, big on impact. I see people spending all this money on their property and they don't need to."

Jane works for home owners who

are keen to freshen up a tired-looking house or who are about to put their house on the market, investors who want to increase the value of their property for resale, and people who have just bought a house.

"New home owners mightn't have much left over once they've settled on the property but they

want to do something to stamp it as their own," she said. "You can do a kitchen renovation where you modernise and totally open it up for \$800, and all it might take is replacing the benchtop and the door and drawer-handles."

"It's not just the obvious improvements like repainting or putting in new carpet."

Jane works on a fixed fee basis, depending on the size of the property. She goes on-site and prepares a detailed report for the interior and exterior with suggestions for improvements, colours, tile designs, finishes and textures. The report contains websites of relevant suppliers and photographs of fittings.



NEW LOOK: Before and after images of a Hotspace remake. Cost - less than \$1,000.